



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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SUPPOSE THEY HAD A PRIMARY AND FEW VOTED??

Editor's note: The above headline was the subject of a Jan. 28th frontpage news analysis in *Calpeek*. In that analysis we asked the question why such a low turnout? Answer: 1) 9-11 and 2) most voters *don't know* there's a Mar. 5th primary election in Calif. The newest *Field Poll* confirms #2. Statewide, only 27% know the primary is set for Mar. 5th, 13% think it's June or some other date, while 60% don't have a clue. GOP voters are slightly more aware of the Mar. 5th primary (31%) than Demo voters (23%). Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: DEMO BATTLE FOR CONTROLLER.

Editor's note: Last week *Calpeek* began its coverage of down-ballot Statewide races with an update on the Controller's race on the Republican side. This week we'll focus on the Demo battle between Bd. of Equalization member Johan Klehs and *deep pocketed* internet exec Steve Westly. Here's our update & analysis...

...BOE Member Johan Klehs from Hayward should have followed Gov. Gray David's lead: raise a huge warchest early – knowing that he might have to face some Demo who could literally buy the Controller's job. And that's exactly what happened, as *eBay's* Steve Westly, a former controller of the CA Demo Party, has established himself as a slight favorite in this primary to succeed Kathleen Connell(D)...

...There are two new polls. A Westly poll by Garin/Hart/Yang Research Group survey (1/14 to 1/17 of 606 likely Demo voters) shows Westly with 24% vs. Klehs with 14% and 62% not sure. The only description used was the actual ballot titles (Klehs – member CA State Bd. of Equalization vs. Westly – businessman/educator). The new *Field Poll* shows almost the same thing: Westly 27% vs. Klehs at 10%, with 63% undecided. This data essentially means the primary is still up for grabs...

...Some sources sees the contest as a choice between experience vs. money. Davis used this comparison to his advantage in 1998 when he ran against Al Checchi and kept hammering the same message: *experience money can't buy*. Klehs recently told *Calpeek* that he's matching 20 years of

elective experience vs. *selling beanie babies on eBay*. But can Klehs do the same thing that Davis did? Probably not. Davis had solid name ID in '98, plus a good sized warchest – not nearly as big as Checchi's, but adequate. Klehs does not have either the name ID nor that kind of warchest. And he's running for a low-profile office – not governor...

...In the warchest department, Westly has cash-on-hand of \$2,721,105 vs. Klehs with \$742,763. And while some IE groups may help Klehs, the important thing to remember is that Westly can write a check *anytime* and he's already done this. The huge Westly warchest will allow him to be up on tv much sooner than Klehs...

...The only advantage that Klehs has over Westly is in endorsements. Most of the key one have gone to Klehs: the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood, PORAC, CA AFL-CIO, CA League of Conservation Voters, CA Professional Firefighters. It's a very impressive list and some of these groups distribute *slates* to millions of voters. Westly's key endorsement is from the powerful CA Teachers Assn (CTA) plus a few other labor endorsements...

...It remains up in the air as to which of these two will win the CA Demo Party's endorsement at the annual convention in L.A. Feb. 15-17. But sources say Klehs has called almost every CDP delegate at least once. Westly has mailed them. To win the CDP endorsement, a candidate needs a 60% vote of all those present and voting. If Klehs wins this CDP endorsement it would give him a big boost. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: CAN EITHER ALIOTO OR SHELLEY STOP EU IN DEMO PRIMARY FOR SEC. OF STATE??

Editor's note: The biggest question in the Mar. 5th Demo primary is whether 1998 Demo Secretary of State nominee Michela Alioto or Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley of S.F. can stop former Sec. of State March Fong Eu from winning a 5th term? In a low turnout primary, Eu has a big advantage: *name ID*. Here's our update & analysis...

...The newest *Field Poll* shows Eu out front with 26%, Alioto at 14%, Shelley with just 5%, others 5% and a huge

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51% undecided. Sources say this is all based on name ID and nothing else...

...On paper, Shelley has 2 of 3 things needed to win: a solid list of endorsements and money. What he lacks is name ID. In the endorsement game, Shelley is supported by Demo U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer & DiFi; LG Cruz Bustamante; AG Bill Lockyer; CA Treasurer Phil Angelides; and CA Controller Kathleen Connell. Shelley also has the key organizational endorsements: CA AFL-CIO; CARAL & Planned Parenthood; CA Professional Firefighters; and the Sierra Club. On top of these solid endorsements, Shelley has a large war chest of \$1,415,875 vs. \$131,944 for Eu and \$394,002 for Alioto...

...Alioto's standing in the Field Poll is the result of good residual name ID left over from her unsuccessful '98 run against SOS Bill Jones(R). But Alioto lags behind Shelley in winning key endorsements and her fundraising base is somewhat suspect, although she's certainly better funded than Eu...

...So how do either Shelley or Alioto overcome Eu's name ID when most voters don't even know there's a March 5th primary? One or both have to make the case that Eu is *past her prime* – she'll be 80 just after the primary. And the real question is whether Eu will actually run the SOS office or will she again turn over the operation to Tony Miller, her former deputy and current campaign treasurer? Most Calpeek sources believe Eu will be again be an *absentee SOS*. Remember GOPer Joan Milke Flores ads against Eu in 1990: *Where Was Eu???*

...As for Eu, she may not have the funding, but in addition to her great name ID, she's got consultant Leo McElroy as her consultant. There's no one in campaign management who can make scarce dollars go a longer way than McElroy. And Eu has a great campaign theme: *No more chad!* Don't think it's as sexy as her 1974 campaign slogan to ban pay toilets, but it fits the SOS's job nicely...

...FYI: Shelley's attempt to match Eu with a solid news peg depends on the success of Prop. 41 – the Voting Modernization Act of 2002 – put on the ballot by Shelley and former Speaker Bob Hertzberg. It's a \$200 million bond to assist local governments in buying new voting machines. It's a great issue to campaign for this office, but thus far there are few signs of a major effort to educate voters. And unless Shelley step up to the plate, Prop. 41 falls flat and fails. Stay tuned....

CAMPAIGN 2002: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on hot primaries for Calif. U.S. House seats. This week Calpeek will focus on campaign contributions in 2 contested primaries...

☒ *The Condit Watch (18th CD)* – From summer until 12/31/01, embattled U.S. Rep. Gary Condit(D) raised only \$252,611, but went through most of that plus more to end up with only \$72,624 cash on hand. Condit's key Demo rival, Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza, has \$77,192 c-o-h. On the GOP side, State Sen. Dick Montieth(R-Modesto) has \$43,831 c-o-h vs. Modesto Councilman Bill Conrad with only \$3,612. FYI: although he's still on the ballot, former Assemblyman George House(R) has dropped out of this GOP primary...

☒ *21st CD* – South of 18th CD in the Fresno area, GOP candidate Devin Nunes (with strong backing from U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas) is just destroying both Assemblyman Mike Briggs(R-Fresno) and former Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson in the race for contributions. Nunes c-o-h is \$307,755 vs. only \$49,129 for Briggs and \$83,630 for Patterson. Briggs may have a longer list of endorsements, but unless he can come up with more \$\$\$, he won't be the GOP nominee. FYI: big IE player in this race is the NY-based Club for Growth, a deep pocketed GOP group which supports *anti-tax GOPers*. Sources say the CFG will spend about \$125,000 against Briggs and will also put some \$\$\$ behind Patterson. Briggs broke with most of his GOP colleagues and voted for the 2001-02 budget and he's been pounded on this issue. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: TWO HOT ISSUES TAKEN OFF THE TABLE: WORKERS' COMP & ENERGY REPAYMENT.

Editor's note: Two of the hottest political issues troubling Gov. Gray Davis' reelection effort were partially resolved a week ago: a bond deal to repay the State's general fund for energy purchases has been worked out AND a Workers' Compensation bill (AB 749) is now on Davis' desk. Here is our brief update & analysis...

...AB 749, by Assemblyman Tom Calderon(D) and Senate PPT John Burton(D), passed on a straight party line vote. GOP legislators and the many in Calif.'s business community blasted the legislation as a *jobs killer*. Last time a major workers' comp bill was passed was in 1993. Sources say that '93 reform bill has saved business about \$10-12 billion over 9 years. Back then, Calif. businesses paid top dollar in workers' comp insurance premiums, but after '93, CA moved to 24th. The highest premiums are paid in PA and MI...

...And while the anti-749 spin machine is working overtime,

truth is some insiders believe business came away in pretty good shape and is much better off under AB 749 than under a proposed initiative to increase workers benefits. For those who have forgotten, Gov. Davis had vetoed workers' comp bills 3 times in the last 3 years. Late last year Burton and some in organized labor decided to launch an initiative. Had a deal not been cut, this initiative would have caused major problems for Gov. Davis in November. The initiative might have had a price tag of some \$6 billion vs. \$2 billion under AB 749. There's no dispute injured workers needed an increase in benefits, because the last time workers got a boost was in 1982...

...The big question is whether Calif. business will attempt to referendum all or parts of AB 749? CA's constitution expressly allows a referendum on a portion of a statute. The referendum is in effect a *line item veto*. Our sources believe if business were to launch a referendum, labor would go ballistic, triggering a massive retaliatory response of some kind – such as split roll property tax. And it would likely energize blue collar/Reagan Demos into a heavier than normal voter turnout in November. FYI: a poll conducted by the workers' comp initiative committee showed support for raising workers benefits at 78% vs. 5% NO, with 17% no opinion. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: CALIF. LEGISLATIVE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on key Legislative primary contests...

☒ **12th SD Update** – For whatever reason, former Assemblyman Peter Frusetta(R) may have made the biggest political mistake he's ever made: he's refusing to sign a contract with his longtime consultant Wayne Johnson. Johnson has done some work for Frusetta, such as getting him on a few slates, but that's been it. Mike Zimmerman is Frusetta's daily cmp. mgr., but he's not a direct mail specialist like Johnson. In the meantime, conservative Jeff Denham has picked up the endorsement of the Nat'l Tax Limitation Cmt. In terms of money, Denham has \$67,476 cash on hand (after spending \$59,281 in the latest report) vs. Frusetta's bigger warchest of \$200,271. Keep your eyes on this GOP primary...

☒ **29th AD Update** – Some new polling data has been released by both sides in one of the hottest and nastiest GOP Assembly primaries. In the Steve Samuelian vs. Fresno businessman Larry Willey contest, a new survey by Arnie Steinberg for Samuelian (1/29 to 1/30, 300 likely GOP and DTS voters), shows Samuelian ahead 34.7% to 17.0%, with the rest undecided. But a hit mailer went out against Samuelian the day after this survey came out of the

field. A newer survey for Willey by Dr. Val Smith (300 likely GOP & DTS voters taken 2/4/02) shows 33% for Willey vs. 24% for Samuelian on initial first question. In terms of warchests, Samuelian has \$63,103 (he spent \$80,855 in this reporting period) vs. \$142,040 c-o-h for Willey, who spent \$31,537...

☒ **2nd AD** – Butte Co. farmer Doug LaMalfa(R) appears to be the frontrunner for this open AD which includes Butte, Yolo, Colusa, Glenn, Modoc, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama and Siskiyou counties. In terms of warchests, LaMalfa has \$124,859 cash-on-hand, having spent \$35,341 in this new reporting period. LaMalfa is on most of the slate cards and a new poll by R.T. Nielsen (300 GOP & DTS voters, 1/18 to 1/21) shows him to be leading with 38%. Rival Pat Kight is in 2nd with 17%, while John Byrne has 12%, with the rest undecided. Kight's c-o-h is \$57,706, while Byrne's c-o-h is \$25,182. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE

We still have about 150 copies of Calpeek's 2001-02 *Directory of Campaign Consultants* left. There are about 300 listings in the Directory. Cost is \$30. Checks only. No credit cards and no invoicing. Send payment with your name, address, etc. (please type or print clearly) to Calif. Political Week or Calpeek, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213...

CAMPAIGN 2002: COUNTY DISTRICT ATTY. RACES.

Editor's note: Here is Part III in our continuing series of reports about key DA races in Calif...

◆ **Solano County** – Incumbent DA Dave Paulson is seeking his 3rd term, but is up against his toughest opponent yet: former Napa Co. DA Anthony Perez. Perez was DA in Napa from 1990-98. He was elected both times as a Demo, but is now a Goper, as is Paulson. Why will this race be close? Conviction rate under Paulson is only 59% and Solano ranks 55 out of 58 counties in child support collection, according to Perez's campaign. And Paulson may be in some trouble over the high-profile Moreno/Pacheco murder trial several years ago. Paulson is supported by the DDA's association, while the Vallejo POA and Solano Co. DSA are backing Perez. In terms of cash-on-hand, Perez is at about \$30,000 vs. \$16,000 for Paulson...

◆ **Ventura County** – 6-term incumbent DA Michael Bradbury is stepping down and this has opened the way for an expensive battle between Bradbury's hand-picked successor, Chief Asst. DDA Greg Totten and Sr. DDA Ron Bamieh, who has been with the DA's office for 8 years and before that was a chief asst. deputy at the U.S. DOJ. Totten, who has been with Bradbury for 17 years,

is endorsed by his boss + Ventura Co. Sheriff Bob Brooks, all of the police chiefs in Ventura county + all of the POAs from Ventura except for Simi Valley. In addition, County Supes Long, Mikels, Flynn and Schille are with Totten. Bamieh's big endorsements are from former State Sen. Cathie Wright and CCPOA. But Bamieh has a decided advantage in terms of resources. Bamieh's family has pumped \$500,000 into his campaign and Bamieh has been up on tv since November and has already hit the mail. Totten has raised about \$250,000. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***Davis Goes After Riordan on Abortion*** – If you haven't seen the new hit tv ad aimed at former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan(R) by Gov. Gray Davis' team, you're missing one of the *best negative spots* in a long time. And the entire :30-second spot is Riordan doing the talking (in an tv interview from 1991), where he says *abortion is murder*. Bet your first born that this spot airs numerous times in the general if Riordan is the GOP nominee...

■ ***In Case You Missed It*** – The GOP-dominated Idaho State Legislature has overridden Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's veto of a bill to kill off Idaho's *term limits law*. Voters in Idaho approved term limits in 1994. FYI: In the new Field Poll, Prop. 45 (to extend legislative term limits another 4 years) is running behind when fiscal impact is added to the question: YES 40% vs. NO 45%. 15% undecided...

■ ***Is AG Bill Lockyer in Trouble?*** – Even though neither incumbent AG Bill Lockyer(D) nor State Sen. Dick Ackerman(R) has serious primary problems, a new poll for Ackerman by Public Opinion Strategies shows Lockyer may have some problems. The POS poll was taken Jan. 22-24 among 800 registered voters. Lockyer's reelect number was 25% vs. 33% someone else, with 39% don't know and 2% refused. In a 1-on-1 match, it's Lockyer 41% vs. Ackerman at 31%, with 27% don't know, 1% other and 1% refused...

■ ***Daschle/Kerry/Edwards at CDP Confab*** – The Calif. Demo Party(CDP) Feb. 15-17 convention at L.A.'s Bonaventure Hotel will feature U.S. Sen. Majority Leader Tom Daschle, U.S. Sen. John Edwards(NC) and U.S. Sen. John Kerry(MA). These three are looking at 2004. Also attending the CDP meeting will be DNC Chair Terry McAuliffe and new Demo U.S. House Whip Nancy Pelosi...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: former tv newsmen and L.A. Co. Sup. Baxter Ward, 82, died Feb. 4th in Kirkland, WA, following a battle with cancer. In L.A., Ward worked at KCOP(13), KABC(7) AND KHJ-TV(9) as a tv anchor. He served on L.A. Co. Bd. of Supes from 1972-80. He was a gadfly and mass transit advocate long before that was popular. R.I.P...

● Gov. Gray Davis has appointed Mark A. Silverston as a supervisor in Alpine Co. – District 4. The governor also appointed Anne L. Marsh as a supervisor in Siskiyou Co. – District 5...

● Sacto-based The Gualco Group is now incorporated. New firm name: The Gualco Group, Inc....

● Campaign consultant Darry Sragow will once again be the chief cmp. strategist for the CA Assembly Demos...

● Calif. election/cmp. law attorney Stephen J. Kaufman has been selected as one of the top 20 attorneys under 40 by Calif. Law Business magazine...

● MWW Group's L.A. office has hired Heidi Hauff as an AE and Annalisa Burgos as an account coordinator...

● RNC grassroots development director Jack St. Martin has left DC to join Sacto-based McNally Temple Assoc...

● Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante(D) has named Luis Vizcaino as his press secretary. Vizcaino will work in Bustamante's L.A. office. He replaces Patricia Soto...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Feb. 13	GOP governor's debate – CSU/Long Beach.
Feb. 15-17	CA Democratic Party convention, Bonaventure Hotel, L.A.
Feb. 19	Last day to register for the Mar. 5 primary.
Feb. 23-26	Nat'l Governor's Assn. conf., Washington DC.
Feb. 24-26	CA Center for Educ. in Public Affairs, annual Sacramento Seminar.
Mar. 5	CA Primary Election.
Mar. 19	5 th annual L.A. Political Roast, Beverly Hilton Hotel.
Mar. 21-23	AAPC 2002 spring conference at Gaslamp Quarter Hilton, San Diego.
Apr. 25	Pat Brown Inst.'s 21 st annual awards dinner, Biltmore Hotel, L.A.